

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /103 W
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R 151711Z FEB 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3040

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3140

ERDA WASHINGTON

ERDA GERMANTOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, EC, ENRG

SUBJECT: US/EC CONSULTATIONS ON ENERGY

REF:EC BRUSSELS 001098

1. ON FEBRUARY 11, MISSION OFFICERS CALLED ON G. SCHUSTER, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION, TO OBTAIN LATEST EC THINKING ON FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. ON ENERGY RELATED PROGRAM.

2. SCHUSTER, WHO WOULD ACCOMPANY L. WILLIAMS (D-G FOR ENERGY) ON PRELIMINARY VISIT, WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE PROSPECT FOR CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH THE U.S. ON ENERGY AND R&D. HE CONSIDERS THE COMING MEETINGS TO BE VERY IMPORTANT. TO ASSIST IN EC PREPARATION, HE ASKED WHAT IS CURRENT U.S. PREFERENCE REGARDING IEA VERSUS BILATERAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY R&D. WE TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FOCUS OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IS AT THE IEA, BUT THIS DID NOT NECESSARILY

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EXCLUDE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WHENEVER THESE WERE DEEMED APPROPRIATE. (NOTE: THIS UNDERSTANDING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED IN TELECON PURPLE TO BIAMBUSO ON FEB. 11.)

3. A POSITION PAPER IS BEING PREPARED BY COMMISSION STAFF FOR THE CONSULTATIONS. SCHUSTER SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THIS PAPER WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO U.S. PRIOR TO THE SCHUSTER-

WILLIAMS' VISIT. SINCE THE PAPER WAS IN PRELIMINARY DRAFT FORM, SCHUSTER DID NOT OUTLINE THE CONTENTS. INDICATIVE OF HIS PRESENT THINKING, HE MENTIONED THE DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A "JOINT EC-US COMMON STRATEGY GROUP." THIS GROUP TO FUNCTION AS A STEERING GROUP TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL AREAS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION OR FOR INTENSIFIED ACTIVITY WITHIN THE IEA FRAMEWORK. OTHER TOPICS MENTIONED INCLUDED: (1) THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINTLY-SPONSORED US/EC CONFERENCE ON A MAJOR ENERGY TOPIC (E.G. ENERGY CONSERVATION); (2) COLLABORATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BROAD ENERGY STRATEGY; (3) THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ONGOING COOPERATION IN ENERGY SYSTEMS MODELING (INVOLVING PERSONNEL INTERCHANGE AT JUELICH AND BNL); AND (4) RECENT EC INTEREST IN LASER FUSION. THESE TOPICS WERE BROUGHT UP IN CASUAL MANNER, NOT CONVEYED AS REPRESENTING AN OUTLINE OF PROPOSED EC AGENDA FOR WASHINGTON VISIT.

4. ON NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY, SCHUSTER SAID THAT THE COMMISSION IS DEVELOPING A POLICY COVERING EXPORT OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT. HE SAID THAT THE EC WOULD BE SEEKING WAYS TO JOIN IN THE GROWING INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR CONTROLS. IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID THEY WOULD BE LOOKING IN TO HOW TO "ENLARGE" THE ROLE OF THE EC IN THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP. RECOGNIZING THE EXPECTED U.S. INITIATIVE TO AMEND THE EXISTING US/EURATOM AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN NON-PROLIFERATION ASPECTS, HE SAID THAT A JOINT US/EC WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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5. IN A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 15, COMMISSIONER BRUNNER URGED THAT ANY FORTHCOMING MODIFICATIONS TO THE EURATOM/US AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION NOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS OR TAKE THE FORM OF, A REVISION OR A RENEGOTIATION. HE WOULD PREFER THAT WHATEVER CHANGES ARE MADE BE DONE AS SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS OR THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. HIS CONCERN IS THAT A RENEGOTIATION WOULD REOPEN THE WHOLE AGREEMENT AND RUN A HIGH RISK THAT VARIOUS MEMBER STATES WOULD TRY TO SLIP OUT OF, OR CHANGE, OBLIGATIONS WHICH CURRENTLY EXIST. HE BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE WHAT WE HAVE AND BUILD ON IT IF NEEDED, RATHER THAN RISK COMPROMISING THE WHOLE EXERCISE.

6. HE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO FOR HIS AND WILLIAMS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON. FIRST, A MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THIS FOLLOWED BY SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS U.S. AGENCIES (ERDA, FEA, AND NRC WERE MENTIONED). FINALLY, A WRAP-UP MEETING WITH STATE. HE ESTIMATES A MINIMUM OF TWO FULL DAYS OF MEETINGS.

COMMENT: WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO COMBINE SOME OF THESE
IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A MORE COHERENT EXCHANGE. END COMMENT.
HINTON

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